

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE
ARMIES.

JUNE 8, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RICHARDSON, from the Committee on Printing, submitted the
following

REPORT.

[To accompany House Con. Res. No. 36.]

The Committee on Printing have considered House concurrent resolution No. 36, requiring the Secretary of War to furnish one complete set of Official Records of the Union and Confederate armies to each Senator, Representative, and Delegate of the Fifty-fifth Congress not already entitled to receive the same, and direct him to report same with recommendation that it do pass. It appears that the Secretary of War has now on hand a large number of copies of this publication, but they are in broken sets. It is estimated that it will require 173 sets to comply with the terms of the pending resolution. After using the broken sets, as far as he can do so, for the purpose of the resolution, there will be needed 2,857 books to supply each Senator, Representative, and Delegate of the Fifty-fifth Congress who has not heretofore been supplied with a full set. To print these 2,857 books it will cost about \$2,000.

The committee find that Senate Document No. 101, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session, being a letter from Maj. Geo. W. Davis, chairman of Board of Publication of the Records of the Rebellion, gives the facts in respect to said publication, and the same is hereby made a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 27, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from Maj. Geo. W. Davis, chairman Board of Publication of Records of the Rebellion, containing recommendations for the distribution of certain surplus copies of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, now stored in the War Department building, together with drafts of four bills embodying suggestions for such distribution. The proposition for the distribution of these documents is concurred in by the Department

attention being invited to the recommendations on the subject contained in the last annual report of the Secretary of War, as follows:

The report of the War Records Office affords the gratifying intelligence that, with the close of the present fiscal year, the entire series of records relating directly to battles and campaigns will have been printed and distributed. It is recommended that authority be granted to distribute the incomplete sets of the work, of which there are about 60,000 volumes now stored in the Department, occupying space much needed for other purposes.

Very respectfully,

G. D. MEIKLEJOHN,
Acting Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WAR RECORDS OFFICE,
Washington, January 26, 1898.

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions that I make recommendations for the distribution of the surplus copies of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion that are now stored in the War Department building, I have the honor to submit the following:

The law of August 7, 1882, provides for the printing of an edition of 11,000 copies of each volume, etc., to be disposed of as follows:

For the Executive Departments	1, 000
For officers of the Army and contributors to the work	1, 000
To libraries, organizations, and individuals designated by Senators, Representatives, and Delegates, Forty-seventh Congress	8, 300
For sale	700
Total	11, 000

All designations authorized by the statute referred to above have been made.

The distribution was begun by the War Department in December, 1882, under regulations issued by the Secretary of War that provided for the delivery to the persons, etc., designated to receive the books, or to the executors or administrators of their estates, the complete work as published, and a large number of the heirs of deceased persons are now the regular recipients of the books. It has been found impossible, however, to locate many of the legal representatives, and in all such cases the volumes issued subsequent to death have been held in the Department. Many libraries and other organizations originally designated to receive these records have been reported to this office as defunct or suspended, and when notice was received of the fact of dissolution of any such organization the subsequent issues were held. This has been a fruitful source of accumulation.

In addition to the volumes derived from the sources indicated above, a large surplus remains of the edition of 700 copies provided by law for sale to subscribers. The number of sales now made on current volumes does not exceed 300, although calls upon this office are frequently made for the earlier volumes.

The number of addresses to which the books as published are now being sent, including regular subscribers by purchase, is 10,007 of the edition of 11,000.

The clauses in the sundry civil acts of January 12, 1895, and June 4, 1897, providing for supplying certain Members of the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Congresses with the work, absorbed a part of previous accumulations, but there is a constant addition to this stock as new

volumes are issued, and the surplus now numbers about 53,000 copies, but, unfortunately, nearly all are in broken sets.

The Secretary of War in his last annual report asked that authority be granted for the distribution of this surplus stock. The Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Congresses have, by special provisions of law, provided complete sets of this publication for such of their Members as had not already been supplied, and I assume that such Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the Fifty-fifth Congress, about one hundred and seventy-three in number, will also be supplied; therefore a draft of a proposed law to accomplish this result is referred to below. After setting aside 173 full sets for this purpose there will remain some 36,000 books and about 58,000 copies of the several atlas plates.

Assuming that Congress will make provision for the disposition of all these surplus volumes and maps, I submit drafts of four bills embodying propositions for the distribution of the surplus copies as follows, any one of which will accomplish the desired result:

1. Authorizing the Secretary of War to make an equitable distribution of all broken sets of these records now stored in the Department, the volumes to be sent to designations made by the Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the Fifty-first Congress. This involves the distribution of 53,000 volumes.

2. For supplying Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the present Congress not now receiving the work with one complete set of the records, and conferring upon the Secretary of War authority to distribute the remainder in the manner set out in the first proposition. This involves the distribution of 173 complete sets and 36,000 surplus volumes additional.

3. As above, and supplying one additional set to each Senator, Representative, and Delegate of the Fifty-fifth Congress, the Secretary of War to distribute remainder as in first proposition. This involves the distribution of 620 complete sets and 17,000 surplus volumes additional.

4. As in No. 1, and giving two additional sets to the Members of the Fifty-fifth Congress, the Secretary of War to distribute any remaining surplus volumes as in first proposition. This involves the distribution of 1,067 complete sets and 7,000 surplus volumes additional.

The estimate of cost in carrying out the several propositions submitted is as follows:

No. 1.....	Nothing.
No. 2.....	\$2,000
No. 3.....	33,000
No. 4.....	63,000

At least two years' time would be required to reprint the small editions necessary to complete the sets under propositions 3 and 4, and the appropriation to cover the expense should be made available until used.

Of this surplus stock the largest number of any volume available for this distribution is about 1,000 copies, while of several volumes none will be available if 173 sets are put aside to supply the Fifty-fifth Congress, as was done for the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-third Congresses.

Very respectfully,

GEO. W. DAVIS,
Major, United States Army.

The ACTING SECRETARY OF WAR,
War Department.

